## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02981 191920Z ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /018 W

-----084806 200435Z /61

R 191622Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5497 INFO AMEMBASSY MIDRID AMCONSUL FRANKFURT AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

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FRANKFURT FOR RSS; CASABLANCA FOR RTC

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, AFSP
SUBJECT: REALIGHMENT OF SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY FOR RSO
MADRID

REFS: A. STATE 095635; B. MADRID 4155

1. GIVEN MADRID'S CONCERN EXPRESSED REF B, THIS EMBASSY WISHES TO ASSURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT THOROUGHLY UNDERSTANDS OUR SITUATION AND WHAT WE PERCEIVE TO BE OUR SY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS. WHILE THE IMMEDIATE SECURITY THREAT IN PORTUGAL HAS DEFINITELY DIMINISHED WHEN COMPARED WITH THE 1974-77 PERIOD, THERE IS NEVERTHELESS A CLEAR NEED TO MONITOR CONTINUALLY THE GENERAL SITUATION AND THE ESTABLISHED SECURITY PROCEDURES IN LISBON, PONTA DELGAGA AND OPORTO: THE PRESENT RSO IS NOW AND WILL REMAIN FULLY OCCUPIED WITH IMPORTANT SY PROJECTS IN LISBON ALONE UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE JUNE 1. WHILE HE ADMITTEDLY HAS DONE OTHER GENERAL ADMIN WORK, INCLUDING ACTING FOR THE ADMIN OFFICER DURING THE LATTER'S ABSENCES, SUCH NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECURITY RELATED MATTERS HAVE IN FACT BEEN MINIMAL DURING THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

2. THIS MISSION IS MUCH LARGER, MORE COMPLEX, AND MUST FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN A POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT THAT REQUIRES A SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER LEVEL OF SECURITY AWAREMESS THAN TH POST THAT WAS SERVICED BY THE RSO

IN MADRID A FEW YARS AGO. WHILE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SPECIFY AT THIS STAGE THE AMOUNT OF EFFORT A TDY RSO FROM MADRID OR ELSEWHERE WOULD HAVE TO EXPEND ON OUR BEHALF, IT ILL MOST DEFINITELY BE MORE THAN SIMPLY A MINOR DRAIN ON THE TIME AND GENERAL RESOURCES OF A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL.

3. ALTERNATIVES MENTIONED BY MADRID ARE CERTAINLY ACCEPTABLE TO THIS POST PROVIDED WE ECEIVE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT. GIVEN MADRID'S DESCRIPTION ND OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR HEAVY SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, AND ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE TRANSFER OF LISBON'S RSO POSITION DIRECTLY TO MADRID. SUCH AN ALTERNATIVE WAS MENTIONED BY THEFOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS DURING THEIR RECENT VISITS TO BOTH COUNTRIES.
BLOOMFIELD

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